

## Wilderness Stewardship Program

# Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Backpack Light Trail Brushing

January 10 & 11, 2015 (Saturday – Sunday)

**Difficulty:**  3+ / 5 [read more](#)

**Camping:** Dispersed backcountry site

**Mileage:** 10+ miles *Total Mileage*

**Time:** Start 9:00am Saturday  
End 4:00pm Sunday

### About Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Area

Designated in 1972, Sycamore Canyon Wilderness has a total of 55,937 acres. This sprawling Arizona Wilderness encompasses all of Sycamore Canyon, from its pine- and fir-forested rim on the Colorado Plateau down through the Mogollon Rim to its desert mouth in the Verde Valley. The canyon winds for over 20 miles along Sycamore Creek, at places stretching seven miles from rim to rim. Carved walls reveal layers of lovely red sandstone, spectacular white limestone, and rugged brown lava. Pinnacles tower above the high, colorful cliffs, and the water of the creek allows a rich habitat to flourish, including sycamores, walnuts, and cottonwoods. It is one of Arizona's most dramatic and beautiful canyons.



### Trip Description

This Wild Stew trip will be an overnight backpacking event into the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness. The purpose of this trip is to perform light trail brushing on the Parsons Trail #144, starting from the Parsons Trailhead. Volunteers will remove brush that is obstructing the trail with the use of small hand saws and loppers.

On Saturday, participants will need to be prepared to hike approximately 4 miles along Trail #144 with overnight backpacks. We will be staging our overnight packs as we continue working along the trail. We will be camping just beyond 4 miles from the trail head. On Sunday we will continue our brushing efforts as we head out of the canyon.

Participants should be prepared to day-hike on maintained Forest Service trails and uneven terrain, carrying an assortment of tools such as loppers, and/or handsaws. Participants must wear close-toed shoes and long pants during work activities.

All necessary training for use and transportation of tools, and cutting of brush will be given at the event. AWC will provide gloves and safety glasses. Camping will be at a dispersed backcountry site. There will be water available in the creek, *please filter or treat with chemical*. AWC will provide a vegetarian dinner on Saturday night.

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**



For Sycamore Canyon Wilderness, January 10 & 11, 2015  
Questions? [brian@azwild.org](mailto:brian@azwild.org)



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## Itinerary

Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>

*~4 miles with Backpacks, and tools*

- 9:00 am **Rendezvous** Parsons Spring Trailhead, *directions below*
- 9:30 am **Briefing and Safety Talk**  
Backpack *approx. 4 miles* on trail #144  
Cutting brush that is obstructing trail
- 12:00 pm **Lunch** along the trail
- 3:30 pm **Set up Camp**
- 5:00 pm **Dinner** provided by AWC (vegetarian)

Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>

*~4 miles with Backpacks, and tools*

- 7:30 am **Breakfast** & break down camp
- 8:00 am **Hike out of Canyon** continue unfinished brushing along trail #144 *approx. 4 miles*
- 12:00 pm **Lunch** along the trail
- 4:00 pm **Arrive** at back at Parsons Spring Trailhead. *Thanks for participating!*

## Gear List -

- Overnight backpack to carry all camping gear, food, water, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, tent/shelter, flashlight (batteries), plate/bowl, utensils, toiletries/toothbrush, first aid kit, other?
- Day Pack to carry supplies on day hike (water, food, camera, etc.)
- Water — 2 - 3 liters/day. *Water will be available in the creek.*
- Food — Breakfast, lunch, snacks. *AWC will provide dinner Saturday night.*
- Sturdy, closed-toe shoes (NO SANDALS). Under our volunteer agreement with the Forest Service, *you must wear closed-toe shoes or you will not be able to join us.*
- Appropriate clothing. Warm layers for the evening. *See weather link below to plan appropriately.*
- Sun protection (sun screen, sunglasses, hat, etc.)

### Optional items

- Camera/Binoculars
- Hiking pole(s) or stick

## Weather

As the event gets closer, please check the weather to ensure you are properly prepared. We will be camping between 3,000 to 3,500 ft. elevation. The weather forecast nearby: [Sycamore Canyon Wilderness 1/10-11/2015](#)



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## Driving Directions

**From I-17 take 260 west out of Camp Verde and head on over to Cottonwood.**

1. Turn left onto 89A and follow through Old Town Cottonwood on the slow 25mph Main St.
2. Continue on to the Tuzigoot National Monument turn off going right. Approx. 3.9 miles
3. Soon after turning you cross a good size bridge. Take the first left after the bridge onto Sycamore Canyon Road. Approx. .4 miles
  - a. After 1.4 miles the pavement ends and your rolling across a washboard hard packed dirt road.
  - b. In 4.6 miles you cross the Coconino National Forest boundary. Stay Right!!
4. From here on the road is called FS 131. Stay left in approx.1.4 miles
  - a. Trailhead will be on the right in 4.5 miles
  - b. The total distance from the turn after bridge is about 10.2 miles.

**The dirt road can be traveled on with cars and sedans. No 4 wheel drive needed.**

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**Trip Leader:** Brian Stultz 775-340-9154 (cell)